***Billionaire’s Curse* Essay**

**DIRECTIONS:**

Review the prompts below and choose ONE of them. Plan and write a 5 paragraph essay in which you use a mix of examples from the novel and real life.

**PROMPTS:**

1. “Greed can be a dangerous master…If it takes hold it can make people do shocking things—things they would never otherwise contemplate.” Is greed an inescapable part of human nature? What does Mason Green mean when he says greed does not discriminate between classes?
2. Do you think we have social classes in the U.S.? What are they? Discuss ways that class systems can be eliminated.
3. People have killed for diamonds. Why are people willing to do this? After all, diamonds are just pretty rocks.
4. Would you want to live forever? Why or why not?
5. Discuss how the media represent the roles of males and females. In what ways do Sam, Gerald and Ruby break these stereotypes?
6. In *The Billionaire’s Curse*, it is the young people who are the true heroes. However, children are not always given the respect that they deserve. Do you agree?
7. The novel proves that people are capable of both great and terrible things. Discuss with examples from the novel and real life.
8. *The Billionaire’s Curse* suggests the most important things in life are friends and family. Discuss with examples from the novel and real life.
9. Gerald is a true hero at the end of the novel. Discuss with examples from the novel and real life.
10. The novel shows that we all have control over our destinies? Do you agree? Discuss with examples from the novel and real life.

**TIMELINE:**

* Wednesday (3/13): Research & block out
* Thursday (3/14): informal outline
* Friday (3/15): Draft essay
* Monday (3/18): Revise, edit, proofread essay
* Tuesday (3/19): Essay final drafts due by midnight